

My name is Camille Giacomazza, I live in Fairfield, CT. I fully support HB5372 An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs.

My personal story is that I have a son who is now 13 who for many years struggled to read and write. While at the elementary level I continued to ask for help. The school did evaluate him many times but did not have the tools to identify or remediate a dyslexic. Therefore, they made myself and my son feel as if we were making up a problem. Teachers were frustrated with both myself and my son. He was labeled as lazy, needed to try harder, said that he was manipulating his parents, made fun of by school mates during peer editing.

After about 7 years of asking for help I finally have gotten what my son needs but continue to feel that my requests are unnecessarily taxing the public school system. They still do not fully understand what it means to be dyslexic. Additionally, as a result of many years of my son falling behind and many thousands of dollars in tutors trying to help him he is at a disadvantage going into high school. He still needs tremendous support and one on one remediation tutoring. This doesn't allow for him to take any electives. If dyslexia identification was part of the curriculum he would be well on his way to understanding how his brain works and would be remediated.

I could go on for hours over how we were wronged in the process but we are stronger now. My heart breaks for children with families who do not have the financial resources or understanding needed to help their kids. Kids who are unidentified live with unnecessary shame and their parents live in frustration.

This is simple...make dyslexia identification and remediation part of the reading curriculum. Keep all kids in reading and writing classes up to grade 8. Have teachers with kids for more than one subject so to understand how they are applying across curriculum what they are learning. And please do what you can to keep the excellent teachers, allow

for them to speak up without fear of loosing their jobs when they know something is wrong with a student.

Gratefully,

Camille Giacomazza